

VZCZCXRO2673
RR RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHNEH
DE RUEHCI #0134 1461216
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 261216Z MAY 09
FM AMCONSUL KOLKATA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2367
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2219
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0979
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0975
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 0042
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0636
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0610
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 2904

UNCLAS KOLKATA 000134

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/INSB, OFDA
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [SENV](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: CYCLONE HITS WEST BENGAL - NO AMCIT CASUALTIES, NO REQUEST
FOR ASSISTANCE

11. (SBU) On May 25, a Category 2 tropical cyclone named "Aila" hit the Eastern India state of West Bengal. Damage was concentrated in South and North 24 Paraganas, especially the low lying delta region of the Sunderbans. West Bengal government officials told post that approximately 40 people died and more than 300,000 were affected by the cyclone. There are no reported American casualties. State and national government officials, assisted by army and paramilitary forces, are spearheading relief efforts as temporarily displaced individuals in rural areas return to their homes. One local administrator estimated that approximately 35,000 rural residential structures were partially damaged and another 17,500 were completely destroyed. Initial indications are that the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal are in a position to adequately address the cyclone relief and do not require, nor have they asked for, any external assistance.

TAYLOR